

HISTORY OF DUNMORE COMMUNITY
(by Ella Fritchard)

Sometime between 1740 and 1750 the King of England sent a young man to America to survey for him. He surveyed and bought for his own a large boundary of land east of the Greenbrier River, west of the Allegheny Mountain. This brave Englishman was Lieut. Warwick. His boundary included all the land owned now by H.M. Moore, the Pritchards, McLaughlins and many other land owners who have bought off of these large farms.

Lieut. Warwick married Miss Elizabeth Dunlap, making his home at Dunmore, three miles east of the C&O Station, Sitlington, on the Greenbrier Division. Five miles west of the Virginia line, just north of the center of the county. Lieut. Warwick returned to England leaving his wife and little son Jacob. Lieut. Warwick died on this trip. His widow married Robert Setlington of Bath County, Virginia, making their home at Dunmore until Jacob Warwick, jr. was twenty-one years old. His mother had secured a deed for him covering all the land owned by his father, Lieut. Warwick.

Setlington's Creek was named for Robert Setlington.

In late years of the Seventeenth Century a fort was built near where the Dunmore postoffice now stands, for the protection of pioneer settlers against Indian raids. A covered walk was built from the fort to the creek so they could always get water in safety.

The Warwick property descended to Jacob Warwick's grandsons, Jacob and Andrew Mathews. Jacob Mathews owned the E. N. Moore place. After the death of his wife the land was sold to B. F. Jackson, who sold the property to E. A. Smith and from him it came into the possession of E. Moore. Andrew Mathews lived on the land now owned by the Pritchards

and F. N. Moore, and named it Mathewsville, and it is thought that he established a post office by that name.

Andrew Mathews sold to William Duncan and Isaac Moore. Both families occupied the house S. G. Pritchard replaced by a new house, and now the Pritchard homestead. Duncan and Moore combined their names and changed the name of the postoffice from Mathewsville to Dunmore. Later Duncan and Moore divided their purchase, Isaac Moore established a home in which H. M. Moore now lives. W. L. Duncan sold his land to John W. Warwick in 1855. In 1860 it was bought by John Andrew Warwick. He sold to Mr. Johnson of Warm Springs, Virginia. In 1873 S. G. Pritchard of Frederick County, Virginia exchanged a farm on Jackson River for the Johnson farm at Dunmore.

Some of the descendents of Lieut. Warwick who have been reared here are Mrs. S. B. Hannah, Mrs. H. E. Nixon, Mrs. Reece Pritchard, Mrs. Haven Leacon, Mrs. Joseph Lyons, Miss Maybelle Moore, and Merritt Moore. The only flour mill for a number of years was located at Dunmore and run by splendid water power, which never froze nor went dry, making it dependable. The older mill was run by what is called an overshot wheel. Later another mill was erected by Col. S. G. Pritchard, who used the turbine wheels for power which was an up-to-date roller mill was built by Winfred McElwee.

On the old water power location there was also an up and down saw-mill, also a carding machine which did splendid work, and a planing machine which made it a very business center.

The first stone building was built of logs. It still stands on the bank of the creek, and is owned by Fred Pritchard. First merchants who kept this store were Duncan & Co., Newton & George Wilson later kept store in the same building. After this Richard Jennings was in the mercantile business in a new and more up to date building on bank of Mill Race. This building was destroyed by fire few years ago.

William and Esq. Hugh McLaughlin bought about 1600 acres from Andrew McLehew, originally the Lieut. Warwick survey. This land takes in all the McLaughlin homes; including the Brooks, Corbett, and Wm. Deputy's farms. Wm. McLaughlin and his brother, Esq. Hugh of Marlins Bottom came to Pocahontas in 1829, from Jacksons River. Esq. Hugh and first William settled on the farm now owned by Jake McLaughlin.

John Carpenter, another old pioneer, settled on Thomas Creek. He divided his land among his four sons, William, John Jr., Hugh and Peter. This land is now the homes of Harry Taylor, James Watson and John Wm. Carpenter.

Near the mouth of Setlington Creek the land was owned by Ruben Lindsay and Jonathan Potts. The site where the town of Raywood now is, was originally owned by a colored family by the name of Diggs. They sold to Andrew Hatliff, who sold to George Ray. Same was purchased by the Warm Corporation and used for lumber yard and manufacturing town.

Thorny Creek was first settled by Martin Dilly, from Maryland, of Quaker descent, in 1820 and 1840 he located where his son Andrew lived; he being the father of Ranson and Amos Dille, who resided on the old homestead. Rev. James Wanless one of the original settlers of Thorny Creek settled some time during the 20's at his death leaving his estate to his nephew, John F. Wanless..

Robert Lunlap McCutchan, January 11, 1825, married Elizabeth Youel Lockridge, of Goshen, Virginia and settled on Thomas Creek in 1825. While they are not pioneers; they came to Pocahontas county soon after the organization of the county, virtually settled in the woods and built their home that was noted for and near for its good cheer and lavish hospitality. Mr. McCutchan purchased twenty-nine hundred acres of land which was likely a part of the Parcel Boundary.

William Nottingham of the Glade Hill neighborhood, married Mary Arbogast, daughter of Adam Arbogast, and settled in the woods. This is now one of our best farms, and is owned by Dr. Ligon Price, since the death of his parents, Mr & Mrs. J. C. Price, who having purchased the same from heirs of Adam Nottingham, who was a son of William Nottingham Jr. Mr. George Craig, father of the late Rev. Newton Craig, was the earliest settler at Glade Hill. A sad tragedy has impressed this fact. The colored nurse became angry when reproved by Mrs. Craig and as expression of her wrath she threw the baby girl on a large kettle of boiling water. This caused the death of the child. That the mother might forget this horrible scene, they sold the nurse to Col. Paul McNeel, son of John McNeel, the first permanent settler of Little Levels. While Miss Carrie Craig, was governess in Col. Paul McNeels' home she met and married John W. Warwick, who then owned the Andrew Mathews farm. She was his second wife. Isaac Moore brought Glade Hill farm from Col. McNeel. E. M. Moore inherited this farm from his father, Isaac Moore. This farm has been sold again and divided into three which are owned by Charles Nottingham, James Wilfong and Charles Wilfong.

Benj. Arbogast one of the pioneers of the Buzzard neighborhood, built a brick house where Cornelius Buzzard now lives. It was in this home they held all their preaching services. The young folks their shoes in hand walked to Greenbank to Church on the Sabbath. On their return they attended Sunday School and prayer meeting which was conducted in John Sutton's barn. When they did all their shopping at Hot Spring, Virginia with only a narrow path just wide enough for a horse, we do not wonder that they made no more than four outings each year and treasured their shoes.